

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel ~~injection~~ injector valve for ~~injection~~ injecting fuel directly into a combustion chamber of ~~an~~ a cylinder-injection type internal combustion engine in which a rich air-fuel mixture portion is stratified around a plug in cooperation with swirl or tumble flow formed in the chamber, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spray particle size of the injected fuel ~~injection~~ from a nozzle portion of said fuel ~~injection-valve~~ injector is at most 20 μ m or smaller in terms of Zauter mean particle size measured at a position 50 mm from a tip of the nozzle portion under atmospheric pressure.

2. (Currently Amended) The fuel ~~injection-valve~~ injector according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said fuel ~~injection-valve~~ injector has an atomizer formed by lapping a plurality of plates having a circular or polygonal hole through which fuel ~~goes~~ passes to a fuel ejection portion of said fuel ~~injection-valve~~ injector.

3. (New) The fuel injector according to Claim 1, wherein stratified charge operation at a vehicle speed of at least 80 km/h or at an engine rotational speed of at least 2400 rpm.

4. (New) The fuel injector according to Claim 1, wherein the nozzle portion includes an atomizer.

5. (New) The fuel injector according to Claim 4, wherein the atomizer is configured to supply fuel upstream of a valve seat with swirling force.

6. (New) The fuel injector according to Claim 1, wherein the fuel is injected when an inlet velocity of intake air flowing into said chamber is late for the spray velocity of injected fuel from the fuel injector.